

LONDON metro

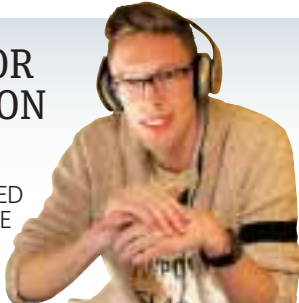
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estimated

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649

MAKE WAY FOR A NEW JACKSON

ANTHONY JACKSON'S HIP-HOP VIDEO VISITS LONDON'S OVERLOOKED CORNERS TO CELEBRATE ITS UNSUNG HEROES

PAGE 4



Dutch treat

With its beautiful canals, markets and tucked-away courtyards, downtown Amsterdam is like one big open-air museum

PAGE 11



Meter knows best?

Are you a risk-taker or a play-it-safe kind of driver? Believe it or not, the way you use the parking meter says a lot about you

PAGE 16



Tonight's
Jackpot



WE ARE THE WORLD: 2013

London high school band U-Turn performs at Wolf Performance Hall on Tuesday during the kickoff of Change the World. The provincewide program for students is sponsored by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and aims to get more young people interested in volunteering. Pillar Nonprofit Network, the local facilitator, wants to see 1,500 students contribute 4,500 hours of community service during the campaign, which runs from April 21 to May 20. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

'Urban reserve' would be a first in Ontario

Land settlement.
Impact of having First Nations land in city remains to be seen

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Mayor Joe Fontana is ready and willing to start sowing the seeds of what could be a "unique" partnership with the Chippewas of the Thames.

"I have been to Japan, Korea and China looking for investors into our city, so what is the difference between those investors and investors such as our neighbours on the Chippewa reserve?" Fontana said on Tuesday. "It is all about trust and relationships. Perhaps we can create something

The breakdown

Here's how the Chippewas of the Thames' \$120 million will be divvied up:

- \$30M for investment, including land;
- \$60M for seniors;
- \$20M for community members;
- \$10M for post-secondary education bursaries.

that is very unique."

Fontana made his comments a day after the Chippewas, who live southwest of London, announced they had settled a 200-year-old land claim with the federal government. The First Nation will be looking to buy as much as 2,000 hectares of land across southwestern Ontario.

Chief Joe Miskokomon has his sights on London, with plans to establish an "urban reserve" along the Highway 401-402 corridor. His goal is to lure businesses with preferred tax rates.

The urban reserve would be the first of its kind in Ontario, though issues of taxation, governance and services still must be negotiated, officials said.

While better tax rates could see some businesses choose the reserve over the city, Miskokomon and Fontana don't consider themselves competitors.

Partnerships will be key to moving ahead, the chief said. "Everybody has to win with this. Economically, it has to make sense," he said.

Fontana said he has already talked to the chief "on what the framework and agreement might look like."

Easter Hunt in the City

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Western releases list of university's top earners



Western University president and vice-chancellor Amit Chakma speaks at a recent event on campus. With an annual salary of \$479,600, Chakma is second on a list of 1,084 Western employees who earn \$100,000 or more. METRO FILE

Salaries. More than 1,000 employees earning six figures



JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Nearly 30 per cent of Western University's full-time staff brought home at least \$100,000 in 2012, according to information released Tuesday by the school.

Western, which has 3,767 full-time employees, paid six-figure salaries to 28.8 per cent of its workers, or 1,084 people. The lengthy list is comprised mainly of academics and administrators.

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry's dean, Michael Strong, led the pack last year, earning \$482,126. Western president and vice-chancellor Amit Chakma makes about \$3,000 less than Strong, who doubles as a medical doctor.

All told, 71 people raked in a salary between \$200,000 and \$300,000. Five people earned between \$300,000 and \$400,000, while four made \$400,000 plus. The rest of the people on the list — 1,004 — had annual take-home pay in the neighbourhood of

\$100,000 or \$200,000.

The list, which must be made public each year, has included about the same number of people in recent years, said Keith Marnoch, director of media and community relations.

"If you were on that list last year and are still employed by us, you're probably on it again," Marnoch said, adding inflation is always a factor.

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, a group that lobbies the government on behalf of students, says salaries are generally fair.

But OUSA president Alysha Li said professors' duties need to be better catered to students.

"A lot of what we hear from students is that students really believe in the teaching aspect of the classroom," said Li, who is also vice-president of university affairs for Western's student council. "They really emphasize (a need to see professors dedicate more time) to the classroom experience."

Professors are traditionally tasked with not only teaching course material but also researching within their field of study.

Western and other post-secondary institutions have been disclosing six-figure salary lists since 1996.

The top five

Highest Western University salaries in 2012:

- **\$482,126.** Michael Strong, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry's dean/medical doctor
- **\$479,600.** Amit Chakma, president/vice-chancellor
- **\$460,000.** Kevin Goldthorp, vice-president of external affairs
- **\$409,366.** Carol Stephenson, Richard Ivey School of Business dean
- **\$351,000.** Janice Deakin, provost/vice-president of academics

Extracurricular. High school sports back on

After an unexpected intermission, local high school sports teams are set to resume play.

The Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board have agreed to resume the Thames Valley Regional Athletics winter season, officials announced Tuesday.

Prior to the agreement, Catholic school teams were playing out the winter sports

season but were unable to qualify for provincials.

Teachers have been working to rule in protest of provincial legislation that imposed contracts.

Each school board will develop its own schedules under the new agreement. Winning teams are to compete in district finals before moving onto regional and provincial competition. **JOHN MATISZ/METRO**

Stand Up for a Cure

Serious comedy

Comedians will take the stage Thursday at Western Fair District to raise awareness and money for kidney research. Stand Up for a Cure runs from 7 to 10 p.m. at Yuk Yuk's comedy club. The event is a joint project of the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Society of Nephrology and an effort to help mark Kidney Health Month. **METRO**

Family time

TVDSB director leaving post

The head of the Thames Valley District School Board will retire effective Aug. 31. Education director Bill Tucker made the announcement late Tuesday. He's led the board since January 2008. "However, the time has come for me to spend more time with my family," Tucker said. **METRO**

International science fair

Scientists selected for Team Canada

Three top high school scientists have been tapped to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this May in Arizona. Dan Alferov of A.B. Lucas Secondary School, Jessie MacAlpine of Huron Park Secondary School and Young Zhou of London Central Secondary School, were among the winners. **METRO**

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Help-Wanted Index. Conference Board reports grim job prospects

Job prospects tumbled for London-area workers in February, according to the Conference Board of Canada's Help-Wanted Index.

The board released its latest report Tuesday and results were grim across the country.

Of 26 cities and metropolitan areas included in the survey, job prospects fell in 20 and remained stable in four. It's a big turnaround from January's results, which showed improved prospects in most areas.

The Help-Wanted Index is based on the seasonally adjusted number of new, undupli-

Top of the pack

Two metropolitan areas saw job prospects improve for February, according to the Conference Board of Canada's Help-Wanted Index. They were:

- Greater Sudbury
- Halifax

cated jobs posted online during the month across 79 job websites. The index does not account for existing ads posted during previous months. **METRO**

Breast-cancer awareness. Workers go pink at St. Joe's

Construction workers at St. Joseph's Hospital have added a towering dash of pink to their work site in the name of breast-cancer awareness.

EllisDon, the company in charge of the hospital's addition at Richmond and Grosvenor streets, has hauled in a pink construction crane to do some heavy lifting. Some workers are also donning pink hard hats.

The crane will be on-site for the next year.

"We wanted to do something unique to show our support for the organization, and what could be more unique than a pink crane?" Brian Waltham, senior vice-president and area manager with EllisDon, said in a statement. "We believe it's the



Workers get a bird's-eye view of London from the top of a pink crane that's been moved onto St. Joseph's Hospital's construction site at Richmond and Grosvenor. CONTRIBUTED

only one in the world."

St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation's inaugural Bust a Move for Breast Health will be April 6 at the London Convention Centre. **METRO**

Four Points Sheraton

Volunteer association to mark anniversary

The London and Area Association for Volunteer Administration is inviting past and present members to a celebration marking the group's 40th anniversary.

With 75 active members, the group is considered one of the oldest associations of its kind in the province, officials said.

The celebration is from 3 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Four Points Sheraton (1150 Wellington Rd. S.). **METRO**

East Village Arts Co-op

Screening to feature different take on animation

The London Ontario Media Arts Association will screen a host of 16mm animated films with a twist at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at the East Village Arts Co-op (757 Dundas St.).

Films included were made using oil paints, pastels, cutout paper collage and sand animation.

The association recently received Ontario Arts Council funding to provide local artists with opportunities for professional development. **METRO**



London hip-hop artist Anthony Jackson jams Tuesday in his makeshift practice space, a closet inside his apartment. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Londoner's hip-hop music video shines light on volunteers

'Backbone' of the city.
Artist says work was inspired by his own family's struggles



JOHN MATISZ
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What are the most important things in life?

Londoner Anthony Jackson asks that loaded question, albeit rhetorically, during a minute-long intro for his new music video, In Your City.

The video rotates between shots of Jackson rapping out-

side city hall and other local landmarks and places meant to highlight those whose contributions to the community are often overlooked.

"If you're from London, I just wanted you to know that these are the good people in your city," Jackson says before the tune picks up.

The 20-year-old aspiring musician posted In Your City on YouTube on Friday. It's now making the rounds as word spreads about the hyper-local theme.

Throughout the nearly five-minute clip, volunteers and employees from non-profit organizations hold up white boards bearing simple

messages.

One says, "We help feed families." Another reads, "We help people keep their housing."

"Without a backbone, you can't walk," Jackson told Metro. "If we didn't have people who volunteer, or people who work at these places, London couldn't be anything, really. The people who need help couldn't get it."

Growing up, Jackson and his mother Madeleine Cochran struggled financially. The realities of being part of a low-income family helped Jackson come to understand the true value of volunteering at a young age.

When he was a teenager, the family lived in a rundown north-end apartment building, Jackson said. The hard times prompted him to try his luck in the music industry.

"My mom said, 'We need money,' and I told her, 'I could rap,'" he said, referring to a conversation they had in 2010. "Ever since then, this is what I've wanted to do."

On the web

To check out Anthony Jackson's In Your City video, visit metronews.ca.



Western student to be remembered Thursday



Noah Kishinevsky CONTRIBUTED

A memorial service in honour of Noah Kishinevsky has been scheduled for Thursday at Western University's Saugeen-Maitland residence hall.

Kishinevsky, a first-year Western student who lived at Saugeen, was found dead on March 18 in a car outside a west London apartment building.

The 19-year-old had been missing since March 16. No foul play was involved, police

have said.

The service begins at noon and is open to the public. It's in the main lounge of Saugeen (289 Windermere Rd.).

Since Kishinevsky's death, Western has been offering counselling to students, said Keith Marnoch, Western's director of media and community relations.

"I think it's certainly on people's minds. I wouldn't be

surprised if (the memorial is) well-attended," he said. "They want to make sure his death is marked or acknowledged as something that is very sad but something that did happen."

Donations for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health are being accepted.

A memorial book can be signed online at benjamin-sparkmemorialchapel.ca.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Resignation

Bluesfest calls it quits — for now

One of the festivals on London's summer lineup has been cancelled.

Bluesfest has been called off after the festival director Chris Gould resigned earlier this month.

In a Facebook posting, Gould said it was time to pursue other ventures and expressed a desire to spend more time with his family. Board members haven't set a timeline for deciding if the festival will make a return in 2014.

Windsor's Bluesfest, which had ties to the one in London, will continue as planned.

AM980/AM980.CA

April 4

Latin community to recognize leaders

The Latin American Leadership Awards will be doled out April 4 in the Carousel Room at the Western Fair District.

Awards will be given in 12 categories, including

sports, community work, arts, culture and academic excellence. A Latino man and woman of the year will also be named.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The event will include a showcase of Latin culture and Latin American dance.

For details, call 519-933-3226 or email jose@maga-zinelatino.com. **METRO**

Daffodil Month

Blooms promised for fundraiser launch

The Canadian Cancer Society will kickoff Daffodil Month at 1 p.m. Monday with a ceremony

in the Cancer Survivors' Garden at McKillop Park (Riverside and Wonderland).

Organizers are promising to have 25,000 budding daffodils on display during the event.

Daffodil Month is a national fundraising campaign for the nonprofit.

METRO

Blackfriars Bridge to get detailed look

12-2 vote. Inspection to help determine future of downtown link

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City council voted 12-2 Tuesday to spend about \$300,000 on an assessment of the Blackfriars Bridge.

The 138-year-old bridge connecting downtown to the west bank of the Thames River still carries 4,000 cars a day, but has not had a structural analysis in more than 25 years.

In that time, the bridge's load rating has gradually been reduced from 10 tonnes to its present three tonnes. It's also routinely closed for maintenance and is causing city engineer John Braam a few sleepless nights.

In other news:

Council approved a review of the types of spending that qualify for reimbursement through politicians' expense accounts.

"We have regular events (loads exceeding three tonnes) that make me very nervous," Braam said.

At least some councillors are worried about exactly what the inspection will find.

"We are not here to deny that Blackfriars is useful, we know the fact that it carries 4,000 cars daily. But, I suggest that this \$300,000 assessment does not include an environmental assessment, and I can just imagine what the report will find," said Mayor Joe Fontana, who along with Coun. Dale Henderson voted against the inspection.



Ye olde manuscript unveiling helps kick off new program

Western University student Amanda Zafar, 19, of Toronto, shows off a medieval manuscript Tuesday as the school marks the launch of its medieval studies program. University officials consider the manuscript Zafar is holding a jewel in their medieval collection. Called Canon Grandel's Prayer Book, the manuscript is named after its original owner who lived in 15th century Belgium. It's rare to find such a manuscript intact, experts said. **ANGELA MULLINS/METRO**

Funding. Liberals reach deal with three more racetracks

The Ontario Liberals say they've reached transition funding agreements with three more racetracks to replace their cancelled revenue-sharing slots program. Premier Kathleen

Wynne says her government has signed deals with Fort Erie racetrack, Flamboro Downs and Georgian Downs. Western Fair District reached an agreement with the province earlier

this month. Wynne says the province is on track for a sustainable horse racing industry, but it will be smaller. She says her government is saving jobs, even though some have been

lost. The Liberals shocked the sector last year when they cancelled the \$345 million a year share of slot machine revenues that went to tracks. **THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM METRO**

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Italian court orders retrial for Amanda Knox and ex-boyfriend

Protracted murder case. Pair were convicted and later acquitted in slaying of roommate

Italy's highest criminal court ordered a whole new trial for Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend on Tuesday, overturning their acquittals in the gruesome slaying of her British roommate.

Knox, now a 25-year-old University of Washington student in Seattle, called the decision "painful" but said she was confident she would be exonerated.

The American left Italy a free woman after her 2011 acquittal — but only after serving nearly four years of a 26-year prison sentence from a lower court that convicted her of murdering Meredith Kercher. The 21-year-old British

exchange student's body was found in November 2007 in a rented house the two shared in the Italian town of Perugia. Her throat had been slit.

Raffaele Sollecito, Knox's Italian boyfriend at the time, was also convicted, sentenced and later acquitted.

It could be months before a date is set for a fresh trial for Knox and Sollecito.

Italian law cannot compel Knox to return for the new trial and one of her lawyers, Carlo Dalla Vedova, said she had no plans to do so.

It was a tough blow for the former exchange student, whose parents have had to mortgage both their homes to raise money for her lengthy, expensive defence.

Prosecutors alleged that Kercher was the victim of a drug-fuelled sex game gone awry. Knox and Sollecito denied wrongdoing and said they weren't in the apartment



Amanda Knox in 2011 after hearing the verdict that overturned her murder conviction. PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

that night, although they acknowledged they had smoked marijuana and their memories were clouded.

An Ivory Coast man, Rudy Guede, was convicted of the

Kercher slaying in a separate proceeding and is serving a 16-year sentence.

Whether Knox ever returns to Italy to serve more prison time depends on a string of ifs

and unknowns.

Whether Italy actually requests extradition will be a political decision made by a future Italian government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prepared statement

Knox reacts

Knox said it was "painful to receive the news," after the trial showed the prosecution case was "unfounded and unfair."

"My family and I will face this continuing legal battle as we always have, confident in the truth and with our heads held high in the face of ... unreasonable adversity," the 25-year-old said in a statement Tuesday.

Mark Waterbury, author of *The Monster of Perugia: The Framing of Amanda Knox*, said, "It just amazes me that the system drags on ... when the case would have been thrown out in the United States long ago."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto mayor rejects 'lies' of alcohol abuse

Toronto's embattled mayor is denying allegations that he showed up drunk for an official function last month, dismissing the latest controversy to plague his mayoralty as "lies after lies."

An agitated Rob Ford addressed the allegations briefly at a news conference Tuesday, blasting the Toronto Star for what he called its "relentless" attacks against him.

"It's the Toronto Star going

after me again," he said.

The Star reported Ford was asked to leave the Garrison Ball, which raises money for the Wounded Warriors charity, over concerns he was drunk.

It also said current and former members of Ford's staff have described a longtime battle with alcohol abuse.

The paper's report is based on several unnamed organizers and guests. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rob Ford deflects the claims against him. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal Caribbean

Death on cruise 'suspicious': FBI

An FBI spokesman says a death aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship has been classified as suspicious.

The FBI is investigating the death of a 62-year-old Virginia woman who travelled on the *Enchantment of the Seas*. Royal Caribbean says the woman's husband found her body inside her cabin on Sunday. An autopsy is being conducted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Regulator ups capital buffer on 6 biggest banks

Too big to fail. Move aims to limit the chance a major bank 'would encounter distress or failure,' says OFSI head

The federal financial supervisor has slapped a too-big-to-fail label on Canada's six largest banks, declaring they will need to carry a bigger capital buffer and be subjected to stricter supervision than their smaller peers.

The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions said Tuesday that the "systemically important" designation stems from a framework issued by the Basel committee on banking oversight in October that set out guidelines for assessing domestic financial institutions.

Coincidentally, the Bank of Canada announced it would regulate SwapClear, the dominant global system for centrally clearing over-the-counter interest rate swaps operated from the United Kingdom.

The central bank said SwapClear has the potential to pose systemic risk to the Canadian financial system, adding the new designation would make the system "safer and more resilient."

Under the new OSFI requirement, the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia,

Quoted

"I really do believe they are the most solid, secure, safest banks in the world and the World Economic Forum has said so five years in a row, so it's not just me saying that. We also have a very diligent regulator, unlike the Europeans."

Economics professor Ian Lee of the Sprott School of Business

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, National Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank will be subject to an additional one per cent capital buffer for risk.

The banks will need to have a common equity tier 1 ratio of eight per cent as compared with seven per cent for smaller, less important financial institutions as of Jan. 1, 2016. The OSFI changes are also designed to make Canada's leading banks more bullet proof in the event of a financial crisis.

"The measures ... are designed to limit the likelihood that a major bank would encounter distress or failure that could negatively impact the Canadian economy or taxpayers," OSFI head Julie Dickson said in a news release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



When studying really pays off

Nick d'Aloisio, 17, displays his mobile application Summly in London, England, Tuesday. He has become one of Britain's youngest Internet entrepreneurs after selling the app to search giant Yahoo. D'Aloisio, who dreamed up the idea for the content-shortening program when he was studying for his exams, said he was surprised by the deal. As with its other recent acquisitions, Yahoo didn't disclose how much it is paying for Summly, although British newspapers put the deal's value at several million dollars. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Say Yes to the Dress

Kleinfeld Bridal coming to T.O. Hudson's Bay

Canadian brides could soon be crying and gushing as they say 'yes' to the dress because retailer Kleinfeld Bridal is setting up shop

next year in Toronto. Hudson's Bay said Tuesday that the department store will have exclusive rights to the luxury brand in Canada. It plans to open a 20,000-sq.-ft. Kleinfeld salon in its Queen Street location.

Kleinfeld, first founded in 1941, is famous for its salon in the Chelsea district of Manhattan that features

thousands of designer gowns. But it has come to mainstream prominence through the TLC reality show, Say Yes to the Dress, where brides go in search of the ideal wedding gown.

The show usually ends with soon-to-be brides in tears as they say "yes" to their dream dress.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mortgages. BMO to end special low interest rate

Bank of Montreal will end a controversial low mortgage rate at the end of this week, when the limited-time offer runs out. The bank says the posted rate for a fixed five-year mortgage will return to 3.09 per cent, where it was before being lowered to 2.99 per cent.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty had called Bank of Montreal to express his disapproval of its decision to offer the special low rate starting on March 4. The minister also praised other banks when they didn't follow Bank of Montreal's lead, and had one of his officials make a call when Manulife later announced a rate cut. Manulife decided a day later to reverse its cut, but BMO kept its offer in place.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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WHEN YOU CAN'T BEAR PANDA HYPE

I'm not sure what it is about giant pandas.

Most of the time, they just sit there. The rest of the time they eat bamboo. Repeat.

But this week, two giant pandas are the toast of Toronto, and therefore the rest of Canada. China has loaned two of the rare bears to Canada: five years in Toronto, and then five in Calgary, and they landed at Pearson airport Monday, via FedEx.

Stephen Harper, who looks a little pandaesque himself, signed for the bears.

The rest of us will have to travel to Toronto or Calgary if we want to watch Er Shun (the girl panda) and Da Mao (the boy) just sit there and eat bamboo.

Of course, the other important panda viewing activity is watching them have sex. There are only between 1,500 and 3,000 of these bears left in the world, so whenever a pair overcomes the performance anxiety that goes with being a spectacle of international co-operation and



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

produces a cub or cubs, there is much rejoicing.

There's even a form of pornography dedicated to encouraging pandas to get it on. It doesn't really work.

So Er Shun and Da Mao travelled 15 hours in a box to live in a zoo and get gawked at. Not a tantalizing prospect if you prefer the seclusion and serenity of the mountain forests of your natural habitat in Sichuan, China. But when you're on the Red List of Threatened Species, I suppose you should feel grateful you can still earn your bamboo by just sitting there, looking awfully cute.

So cute that Toronto hopes millions of people will line up to watch Er Shun and Da Mao just sit there, plus buy the inevitable panda spinoffs.

Of course, not everyone is enchanted by the panda-monium, especially those who think we should close all the

zoos and set the animals free into the wild.

Where, I might add, it is more than likely they will be systematically poached, climate changed, overrun — and run over — into oblivion.

Any visit to a zoo these days is a depressing experience, not just because zoos are depressing places (spend some time watching morose gorillas behind glass: uplifting), but because there is literally no survival alternative for a vast array of species on display.

Zoos are, really, the last safe places for many animals. But only the cute ones — like pandas — or the interesting ones — like gorillas.

Ugly or nondescript critters just go quietly extinct without a fuss even from animal rights advocates, who have a tendency to champion the poster pandas and leave the wart hogs to fend for themselves.

If you don't believe me, I leave you with a simple number, more eloquent than I will ever be: 200.

That's the number of species, according to the UN, that are gone everyday.

ZOOM

Stop watching and start paddling



RICHARD GARDNER/REX FEATURES

Ever see a shark attack in a pool?

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water ... there's a shark attack on your screen. A swimming pool in Leeds, England, has been transformed into a swim-along cinema.

The temporary set up at Bramley Baths featured a large projector screen and speakers streaming the audio both under and over the water.

For Jane Earnshaw, cinema organizer and festival director of I Love West Leeds Festival, coming up with the idea of a swim-along cinema was simple.

"In the past, our festival organized pop-up cinemas in parks and housing estates," she told Metro. "I wanted to have one in a local swimming pool and I thought to myself, 'What is the most iconic water movie?' There was only one answer and it was Jaws. It was an absolute cinch." **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Feel like swimming?

15

swimmers took part in the event. Another 25 visitors flanked the pool's balconies to watch Jaws. Previous quirky events at the venue have included a floating orchestra and an underwater art exhibition.

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If sending a tweet is like tossing a pebble into the ocean, then these folks who re-purpose them are the heroes sifting through the silt in search of pebbles they can polish to a shine.

@pentamatron:

Backed by an algorithm that searches for tweets in iambic pentameter, Pentamatron gives tossed-off thoughts like "You have the morals of an alley cat," a role in a never-ending act about modern life.

@wesingyoutweet:

"You Tweet Them, We Sweet Them" is the motto of two balladeers who lend a beautiful voice to gripes about pet hair, weird Twitter non-sequiturs and life lessons learned.



Illustrated tweet of the day:

A regular feature at HelloGiggles.com offers colourfully drawn musings on topics ranging from Downton Abbey plot points to which dessert would make the best bed.

Comments

RE: How Twitter #Hashtags Are Invading Our Lives, IRL, published March 26

#sotruel I use hashtags online and verbally a lot. Especially to make a point or make a story more entertaining. For example I love to use #awkward, #romance and my all-time favourite #eyeroll!
Ben B posted to metronews.ca

RE: Tory Backbenchers Say They're Muzzled, published March 26

Is this new(s)?
Albert Ormiston
posted to metronews.ca

RE: U.S. Bars Test Boundaries of Legal Marijuana, published March 26

I think what Vapor Central, a vapor lounge in Toronto, provides is a very successful model: No alcohol allowed. Like myself, many cannabis users do not drink or want to be around drinking and drunks.
MaryJane Cannabian posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca



Max Irons and Saoirse Ronan star in *The Host* — an alien movie from the *Twilight* author. ALAN MARKFIELD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not your typical alien movie

The Host. The latest offering from the *Twilight* author flips the script on what has been the standard blood bath flick



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In *The Host*, the hotly anticipated new film written by *Twilight* scribe Stephenie Meyer, a parasitic alien is injected into the body of Melanie Stryder, played by Saoirse Ronan.

Sounds grim, but remem-

ber, this is from the lady who gave us sparkly vampires and undying love, so the alien inside is kind of a lovesick creature who helps the host body find her loved ones.

That's a lot more benign than other parasitic alien movies.

The most famous alien organism — in the movie *Alien*, naturally — literally burst on the screen, poking its horrible head through the chest of John Hurt in one of cinema's most indelibly creepy moments.

To get a natural reaction from his actors, director Ridley Scott didn't fully explain what was about to happen as they shot the scene.

"Everyone (on the crew) was wearing raincoats," said Sigourney Weaver. "We

should have been a little suspicious."

When the alien came careening out of Hurt's body the actors were genuinely surprised.

Blood oozed all over the set and the shock was so intense it's alleged that Veronica Cartwright passed out and Yaphet Kotto was so freaked out he went to his room and wouldn't talk to anyone.

Much less bloody is *The Puppet Masters*, which sees the earth invaded by alien "slugs" that piggyback on people's backs, controlling their minds.

Based on the Robert A. Heinlein 1951 novel, the film starred Donald Sutherland, who also appeared in one of the genre's classics, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

Scary movie

The shock was so intense it's alleged that Veronica Cartwright passed out and Yaphet Kotto was so freaked out he went to his room and wouldn't talk to anyone.

On the unforgettable scene in *Alien*

The original movie of the story, taken from Jack Finney's classic novel *The Body Snatchers*, dates from 1956 and has been declared by the Library of Congress as "culturally, historically, or esthetically significant," but it is the Sutherland version, from

1978, that is truly chilling.

The story of alien infiltration — humans are being replaced one by one by emotionless ETs — was called "the best film of its kind ever made" by *The New Yorker's* Pauline Kael and a movie that "validates the entire concept of remakes," according to *Variety*.

The strangest movie parasite wasn't an alien, but a bug that feeds on fear.

In the *Tingler*, these parasites attach themselves to their host's spine and tingle when the host is frightened or scared.

In its original 1959 run it was shown with the *Percepto!* gimmick that gave some of the theatre seats a small electrical jolt — or tingle — during the movie's climax.

2 SCENE



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James Franco lets it spill on Hathaway and Lohan

James Franco insists he and Anne Hathaway have made peace with each other after their disastrous Oscars hosting gig two years ago.

"Anne and I made up, by the way. Let's just get that on the record," Franco told Howard Stern during an interview.

"It was a really hard time after the Oscars. She wasn't mad at me, I don't think. She didn't say she was mad at me for what happened. The critics were so nasty."

The Spring Breakers star also addressed a rumour that he'd turned down an offer to sleep with Lindsay Lohan.

"I don't want to, like, brag about it. I don't know how that got out," Franco said.

Not trying to kiss and tell

"I don't want to, like, brag about it. I don't know how that got out."

James Franco
Speaking about Lindsay Lohan asking him to have sex with her.



James Franco.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"She was having issues even then, so you feel weird. Honestly, she was a friend. I've met a lot of people that are troubled, and sometimes you don't want to do that."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Chris Brown trying to nurse his public black eye

THE WORD

Meredith Engel
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Brown was PR coached within an inch of his life before appearing on On Air With Ryan Seacrest yesterday.

How do we know?

The singer said everything that everyone wants him to say about his brutal assault of girlfriend Rihanna four years ago.

"I just tried my best to be the best man I could be over the years and just show her how remorse-

ful and sorry I was for the incident and that time was probably the worst part of my life and being that she has and she's a wonderful person I'm eternally grateful and thankful," he said about trying to make amends with her and the world.

And as for the backlash that the two are back together?

"People are entitled to their opinions. I can't go around blaming. It's all about my responsibility and me growing up as a man," he said. "So I think now that I'm becoming older, and trying to mature in this life under the public eye at all times, I have to focus on doing the right thing and being more of a humble individual."



Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

Cyrus and Hemsworth still working out their problems

Miley Cyrus and fiancé Liam Hemsworth are reunited after his four-week visit to his native Australia, and all the speculation about their relationship status "has caused a lot of stress" for them, according to E! News.

"There are some serious problems going on, but see-

ing them together, they do genuinely love each other and they really do want to work it out," a source says of the ordeal.

"His trip to Australia was a way for them to figure out what they wanted to do and have time to think for themselves."

Wednesday's jackpot.

\$20,000,000
estimated



welcome to cloud 649

Thursday's conference.



Most of downtown Amsterdam looks like one huge open-air museum and strolling its streets costs you nothing. Renting a bike is not free, but if you want to go native, it's the only way to travel. Just watch out for the traffic and tram rails.

PHOTOS AND STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The canals

Amsterdam's canals are 400 years old this year, but strolling along the waterways never gets old. The scenery includes Golden Age mansions dating to the 17th century, converted warehouses and narrow buildings that sometimes look like they're ready to topple over sideways. The ring of canals starts with the Singel, which boasts a floating flower market. Then come the Herengracht, Keizersgracht and finally the Prinsengracht. Once you've worked up a thirst pounding the cobbled sidewalks, stop off for a drink in one of the "brown cafés" — small bars named for their dark wooden interiors — along the canals or in the web of narrow alleys that interconnect them. If you visit the Red Light District (and most tourists do), you'll discover that it's also built around two historic canals.

5

Free things to do when in Amsterdam

Begijnhof

The clatter of trams and ringing of bicycle bells can be an assault on the ears, but there's a hidden oasis of peace in the heart of Amsterdam if you need a little quiet time. The Begijnhof is a small grassed courtyard surrounded by beautiful 17th- and 18th-century houses that were originally built for pious Catholic single women. It's right in the middle of town and reachable by a gateway at the end of a lane leading off one of the city's busiest shopping streets, but it is almost eerily silent. The courtyard also holds a small English Reformed Church and a Catholic chapel. If you don't manage to get into the Rijksmuseum to see Rembrandt's Night Watch, right around the corner from the Begijnhof is another hidden (and free) gem of the city, the Schuttersgalerij, or Civil Guard Gallery, of the Amsterdam Museum.



Vondelpark

The city's most famous park is just a stone's throw from Museum Square and a great place for a picnic. The 116-acre park (47 hectares) has ponds, tree-lined pathways, kids' playgrounds, an open-air theatre and cafés. You can rent inline skates, but it's mainly just a great place to lay down a blanket and sit for an hour or two watching the world go by. Look out for the Picasso sculpture of a fish in one of its meadows.

Eye

One of Amsterdam's newest landmarks is a stark, white film institute, called the EYE, perched on the northern bank of the Ij waterway. While you have to pay to take in a movie, the café and its terrace are open to all who are prepared to buy a cup of coffee or light meal and offer a front-row seat to watch barges chug along the Ij against a backdrop of the city skyline. Remember that Amsterdam, at its heart, is a busy port. Getting there is another of the city's unsung pleasures — you squeeze onto a free commuter ferry usually crammed with cyclists from behind Central Station.



Markets

Amsterdam's wealth began in its port with the merchants who bought and sold everything from tulip bulbs to spices from the East Indies. A little of that mercantile past can still be seen at the city's many markets. The most famous is the Albert Cuyp food market in the Pijp neighbourhood, which sells, as the city website puts it, everything from cheese to bicycle chains, six days a week. The prettiest is the Noordermarkt, a sort of grower's market that sets up each Saturday outside the historic Noorderkerk church, next to the Prinsengracht canal. The best flea market is at Waterloo Square every day except Sunday close to the Amstel River.

3 FREE

Lighten up Passover with simple and tasty Mandelbrot (Biscotti)



ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

These biscotti are phenomenal, not to mention very simple, by just using matzo cake meal and potato starch. Be sure not to use just Matzo meal.

1. Combine eggs, sugar, vanilla and oil. Add remaining ingredients (except for chocolate drizzle) and mix until well combined.

2. Form into one log and place on baking sheet lined with foil and sprayed with vegetable oil.

3. Bake at 350 F, 30 minutes.

4. Lower oven to 300 F, let cookies cool for 15 minutes, then sliced into 1-inch biscotti, lay on side, and bake another 35 minutes.

5. Drizzle: Melt chocolate and oil in microwave for 2 minutes on defrost or until chocolate begins to melt. Whisk until smooth and drizzle over biscotti.

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 1/3 cups matzo cake meal
- 1/3 cup potato starch
- 3/4 cup semi sweet chocolate chips

- chips
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped pecans
- Chocolate drizzle**
- 3 tbsp semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp oil



This recipe makes 18 pieces. COURTESY OF ROSE REISMAN

Passover Food Facts

Here's some food info about the holiday commemorating the Exodus, the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

- **Yeast.** Food that contains yeast is prohibited during Passover.
- **Matzo.** Unleavened bread is a central feature of the festival. In addition, all leaven must also be removed from the house during Passover, a symbolic way of removing the "puffiness" (pride) from one's soul. Leaven includes anything made from the five major grains completely cooked within 18 minutes after coming into contact with water.

Reader's note

Not all Passover traditions are the same, so the dishes on this page may not meet all dietary requirements or restrictions.

METRO

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Instagroan: Please pause before you post

Twits not welcome.
A recruiter reminds us how to easily avoid a social media mess

ASHLEIGH
TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Before you post that picture of yourself doing body shots during your Cancun spring break, I would like to offer you some friendly advice on how potential employers might interpret your online behaviour.

You need to make sure that you are projecting the best possible image to future em-

ployers, in case anyone who's thinking about hiring you takes a quick second to Google your name. People will be assessing what you've posted to see if there are any photos, videos or all caps irrational ranting that raises a red flag about your judgment, awareness or intelligence.

A few common sense tips can ensure that you come across as employable:

Think before you tweet ... about how bad your job is

I've seen far too many catastrophes caused by careless tweets. We've all witnessed heat of the moment tweets about someone's failing love

life and epic drinking plans (please, spare us), but I especially urge caution when it comes to social posts about your job.

It only takes one tweet along the lines of "This job is **** and everyone here is a ***** to get you fired.

The same applies if you decide to resign. Take a moment to reflect on how rejoicing publicly about your departure from your current boss, job or co-workers could appear. Perhaps your boss is in fact an evil fascist, and maybe your co-workers do give new meaning to the word psycho, but griping about work is never a good idea. Regardless of the situation, it can make you look like a whiner and/or jerk. **Be truthful and consistent**

Now that your social profiles (especially LinkedIn) are out there for anyone and everyone to see, you need to ensure you are telling a truthful, consistent story about yourself.

If your LinkedIn profile doesn't match up to your resumé, that will raise red flags and will quickly torpedo potential opportunities. Take the same care in putting together

an online profile as you would your resumé.

Maintain your personality and use it to your professional advantage

While you might think I would advocate for being a passionless yuppie robot on your social media profiles, that's not

the case. Having a life outside of work makes you an interesting, well-rounded person, so maintain your unique qualities and pursuits in full view (as long as your pursuits are of the legal variety).

Remember to take the time to post updates about news and trends related to your industry. This will work

to your advantage by showcasing your knowledge and interest in your field to potential employers.

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Everyone lets their hair down once in a while, just have the good sense not to share evidence of the crazier times with the entire world. ISTOCK

@ChangeYourName

Ditch the cheesy Twitter handle

- You should be showcasing the best possible image to potential employers and @lovemonkey1990 is sending all the wrong messages.
- Sticking to your name is safest, but if you choose to use a nickname, make it something that wouldn't make your Grandma blush.

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Maple Leafs forward Nazem Kadri bails out goalie Ben Scrivens by making a save on the Panthers' Jerred Smithson on Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lupul helps Leafs lap Panthers in 3rd

NHL. Toronto forward has six goals in four games after returning from broken forearm

Joffrey Lupul scored two third-period goals to rally the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 3-2 win over the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night.

Lupul's power-play goal 22 seconds into the third put Toronto ahead 2-1 before Florida tied it 23 seconds later when Shawn Matthias banked in the puck off the skate of Leafs' defenceman

On Tuesday

3

Leafs

2

Panthers

Mike Kostka in front. But Lupul brought the Air Canada Centre gathering of 19,379 to its feat at 3:12 with his second of the game.

Lupul has held the hot scoring hand for Toronto with six goals in four games since returning from a broken

forearm. He also scored in the Leafs' 3-2 shootout loss Monday night against Boston, giving him three goals in two games since returning from a two-game suspension.

But Toronto goaltender Ben Scrivens preserved the one-goal advantage with a fine glove save off Florida's Tyson Strachan with 7:15 remaining in the third and was solid in stopping 40 shots.

Dion Phaneuf also scored for Toronto (18-12-4), which was playing its third game in four nights. The Leafs return to action Thursday night hosting the Carolina Hurricanes.

With the win, Toronto

Purring vs. Panthers

77/79

Ben Scrivens stopped 37 shots in Toronto's 3-0 road win over Florida on Feb. 18. After Tuesday's 40 save performance, the Leafs goalie has stopped 77 of 79 shot attempts by the Panthers this season.

improved to 9-6-2 at home to remain sixth in the Eastern Conference with 40 points, two behind fifth-place Ottawa. But the Leafs became the fifth team in the conference to reach the 40-point plateau.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Romero to start season in Florida

Ricky Romero's encouraging start Tuesday was not enough to make up for a rocky pre-season.

The Toronto Blue Jays announced that the left-hander has been optioned to single-A Dunedin of the Florida State League.

The move came shortly after Romero picked up the win in Toronto's 6-3 victory over Pittsburgh. It was considered a make-or-break start for Romero, who had a decent outing but didn't do enough to make up for his spring struggles.

Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos said the left-hander simply ran out of time to make him as good as he should be to be part of the club's rotation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Diaz disputes weigh-in, wants rematch with GSP

Nick Diaz's camp is alleging improprieties surrounding the UFC 158 weigh-in and drug testing.

The California welterweight lost a five-round decision to champion Georges St-Pierre on March 16 at Montreal's Bell Centre.

Since then, a video shot backstage at the weigh-in has raised questions about the Quebec athletic commission (Regie des Alcools des Courses et des Jeux), showing that it treats 170.9 pounds the same as 170.

Diaz was announced at 169 pounds at the weigh-in while St-Pierre was 170 — the welterweight limit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knights take stranglehold on 1st round



London centre Alex Broadhurst scored three goals against the Saginaw Spirit on Tuesday as the Knights won 7-1 to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven, first-round series. TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES FILE

Alex Broadhurst scored three goals and Anthony Stolarz made 32 saves as the London Knights trounced the Saginaw Spirit 7-1 on Tuesday to take a commanding 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven OHL quarter-final series.

Kyle Platzer, Remi Elie, Paxton Leroux and Nikita Zadorov also scored for the Knights, while Max Domi and Dakota Mermis pitched in with a pair of assists each.

Dalton Young scored the only goal for the Spirit, who

Game 3

7

Knights

1

Spirit

33-28 but Stolarz was outstanding once again turning aside all but one for the Knights. Jake Paterson finished with 21 saves at the other end.

Broadhurst got the Knights up and running as he finished off a three-way passing play early in the game at the 2:12 mark.

Less than four minutes later London made it 2-0 as Platzer scored unassisted after moving in front before putting the puck past Paterson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

will try to avoid a sweep in Game 4 Thursday night at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw, Mich.

Saginaw outshot London

Nothing old-fashioned about new Jeep



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (290); 5.7-litre OHV V8 (370); 3.0-litre DOHC V6 turbo-diesel (240)
- **Transmissions.** Eight-speed automatic
- **Base price (including destination).** \$41,600

4x4

The Grand Cherokee continues with three different 4x4 systems: single-speed Quadra-Trac I; Quadra-Trac II with a two-speed transfer case (low range for severe off-roading); and Quadra-Drive II that can direct torque to a single tire instead of just front to back.

Engine

For 2014 an all-new V6 turbo-diesel comes on-stream. Although it has the same 3.0-litre displacement offered on the 2007/08 GC (that was sourced from Mercedes-Benz), the new version is built by an Italian supplier, which is understandable given Fiat's dominating control of Chrysler. Its 240 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque trump the previous 215/376 ratings.

Jeep is reinforcing its new cleaned-up turbo-diesel by labelling it the "EcoDiesel." Maintaining its clean bill of health involves the injection of a substance known as urea into a chamber just ahead of the muffler. The organic-based compound reacts with and neutralizes the engine's nitrogen oxide gasses. It then burns off the remaining soot and expels what little is left. The 30-litre urea reservoir should last for about 16,000 kilometres before requiring a \$50 to \$60 top-up.

Transmission

The other component added to the EcoDiesel mix is an eight-speed automatic transmission. In fact, all Grand Cherokee power plants will be connected to the new gear changer. Jeep says it provides quicker acceleration, smoother shifting and improved fuel economy. The rear-wheel-drive EcoDiesel GC is rated at 10.3 l/100 km city and 7.1 highway. By comparison, the base gasoline 3.6 earns a 12.3/7.9 rating.

Review. Is it a case of 'adapt or die,' or is it just along for a high-tech ride?

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Sport utility vehicles might be fading from the automotive landscape, but at least a couple of Chrysler's Jeep-branded models tenaciously hold firm to the go-anywhere concept.

Of course Jeep's warrior-inspired Wrangler is the group's undisputed icon, but there's certainly nothing old-fashioned about the updated Grand Cherokee that's now rolling off the assembly lines. The new 2014 model shows a freshly scrubbed face plus some major adjustments under the hood.

The current-generation GC that arrived for the 2010 model year was a hit right out of the gate with stylish looks,

sure-footed suspension and a smooth-running 290-horsepower V6 engine. The 360- and 470-horsepower "Hemi" V8 options (the latter attached to the super-swift SRT model) have added considerable performance luster to the lineup, but it's the fuel-efficient V6 that has contributed the most to the GC's continuing popularity.

Opting for the EcoDiesel adds \$5,000 to the \$56,600 price tag of the Grand Cherokee Overland (the base 3.6 Laredo starts at \$41,600). Factor in the extra cost of diesel fuel, and the EcoDiesel upgrade doesn't seem quite so tempting.

But the 3,265-kilogram tow rating matches the 5.7-litre V8's while providing a 550-kilogram advantage over the gas V6 models. And the estimated 1,170 maximum cruising range might persuade buyers to seriously consider the extra expenditure, especially if towing is in the cards.

Returning is Jeep's available air suspension with five



There are new LED lights front and back, which is the norm these days.

separate height settings, along with Selec-Terrain that allows the driver to adjust the 4x4 and height/transmission settings for sand and mud, snow, rock or sport. The latter reduces the degree of traction control, lowers the ride height and directs extra torque to the rear wheels.

The GC's drivetrain components are housed in a sleeker-looking body featuring a restyled front end that varies slightly depending on the trim level selected. Inside, the cabin has been retailored and the control panel redesigned

to accommodate the new 12.7- and optional 21-centimetre touch-screens.

All but the base Laredo arrive fairly geared-up, but the luxury-laden Summit edition with its lacks-for-nothing content level is set to compete with any top-end German or Japanese competitor you would care to name.

The physical improvements and expanded engine lineup make the Grand Cherokee an even more complete package and an exemplary member of the dwindling sport ute fraternity.

By comparison



1 Ford Explorer 4x4
Base price: \$34,700



2 Toyota 4Runner
Base price: \$39,600



3 Land Rover LR2
Base price: \$41,300

5 DRIVE

Parking meters are a window into the soul

Auto Pilot. What your parking meter usage reveals about you



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

A parking meter is not just a device to pay for street parking. How a person uses or doesn't use a parking meter says a lot about them.

If you find yourself drunk and sawing the heads off parking meters, like Paul Newman's character did in the movie *Cool Hand Luke*, it probably says you should back off the booze a bit.

Otherwise, it might be about how much risk you're willing to take. My friend Bob and I usually take turns driving to our downtown badminton club. There's pay-enforced street parking until 9 p.m. If he drives and it's 8:45 p.m., he doesn't think twice about rolling the dice with the parking meter police.

When I'm driving, I always

make sure I'm paid up until 9 p.m. I don't like gambling of any kind. So there's that, and the fact that during one bad spell I got so many parking meter-related tickets out of carelessness that I gave up.

I pay even if it's just a minute to run in for coffee. I overpay even. The parking meter people won. They beat me down like a pack of young boys in a circle trying to kill a snake in long grass, with shovels.

Another badminton mate, Robert, goes a bit out of his way to find non-metered (and free) parking. He does this not because he's cheap, but because he's principled. He can't abide the reality that he could drive his car continuously on the streets 24/7, but the second he stops on the side of the road he has to pay.

He reasons it's the same piece of pavement, as a taxpayer, that he has already paid for. He's got a point, and it got me thinking about a new use for self-driving vehicles — as drones to make sure you never have to stop for pay-enforced parking.

Nothing enrages people like that yellow parking ticket

Parking meter fun facts!

- The world's first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City on July 16, 1935.
- In 1960, New York City hired its first crew of meter maids — all women. The first man was hired in 1967.
- Chicago has North America's highest downtown parking meter rates — \$6.50 per hour.

under the wipers. People fight parking tickets with the energy, vehemence and resolve usually reserved for toppling corrupt regimes. This could reveal that you have untapped reserves of chutzpah. Or that you should be chilling out a bit more ... maybe try pilates.

At this point, wanna joke about a parking ticket? No. Fine. Apparently that's an actual joke about a parking ticket.

See, even the jokes about parking tickets suck. Parking tickets are not cool.



Parking meters are seemingly banal, but oh-so telling. ISTOCK

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Used CC: Sensible style and luxury

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2009 to 2012

Volkswagen Passat CC

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Bringing Volkswagen's presence into the world of so-called four-door coupes, the VW Passat CC packed four doors onto a low-slung, sleek body that wouldn't look out of place on a sports coupe. Designed for elegance and an upscale, sophisticated look, the Passat CC was an affordable head-turner full of premium features.



SUBMITTED

Common Issues

Triple-check all interior electronics, including the windows, motorized seats, sunroof and stereo/navigation system.

Ensure the engine operates smoothly at idle, and at light, moderate and full throttle while driving. Hesitation or "lumpy" power delivery, possibly accompanied by a

check-engine light, could be the result of one or more faulty ignition coil packs, which power the vehicle's spark plugs. VW's ignition coil packs are well known to be failure-prone, though they're inexpensive and simple to fix.

Shifting issues on a model with the DSG transmission could be caused by a faulty mechatronics unit, which controls the advanced gearbox.

Engines



Power came from a 2-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine with 200 horsepower, or a 3.6-litre V6 with 280. The four-cylinder model came in front-wheel drive only. The V6 could be teamed only with a six-speed automatic and all wheel drive.

What owners like



CC owners rave about a comfortable interior, plenty of creature comforts, a high-dollar feel and smooth, quiet ride. A sense of pride, expensive looks and styling are also highly rated, and most owners say performance is more than adequate.

What owners dislike



Some owners wish for more rear-seat room, better outward visibility and a fully-functional moonroof, as the factory unit only tilts and doesn't slide. Taller drivers may wish for more headroom.

Verdict

For low running costs and higher potential reliability, a four-cylinder model with the manual transmission is your best bet. A well-maintained model should provide access to a driving experience with higher-than-average levels of refinement and enjoyment relative to its price.








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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

There is no point trying to convince people who don't want to be convinced. The only way you can win over those who doubt you is by practicing what you preach.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

There may be a pile of work that needs to be done but does it have to be done immediately? Of course not. Stay calm and make today a day of relaxation.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You probably don't care in the slightest that not everyone approves of your methods. That's fine, but don't antagonize people for the sake of it. Haven't you got enough problems already?

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Both career and family matters may be under heavy influences at the moment but in a matter of days you will realize there was precious little to really be worried about. A sense of humour is a must.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Travel plans may not run smoothly today and although you may take delays in your stride other people will get hot under the collar. Make things easier for yourself, and others, by not making last minute changes.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Today's full moon may have you behaving in irrational ways, so wait a day before making important decisions. Do something positive and try not to give yourself too much time to think.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

More than likely you will find yourself at odds with loved ones. If you get through the day with no blazing rows, you will have done very well indeed.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

With the right attitude, all things are possible. With the wrong attitude even the smallest of problems seems insurmountable. Keep that thought in mind and you will find it easier to smile and get through the day.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You are acutely aware of injustice but sometimes you see injustice where it does not in fact exist. Be careful what causes you get involved in today because your emotions may be a little bit off-centre.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You know what you like and you don't care if no one else on the planet agrees. You may face considerable opposition today but in a strange way it will energize you.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Why do so many people you don't like insist on getting close to you? Maybe it's because your subconscious is attracting them. Or maybe they're in the mood for a fight. Either way, there will be ructions today.

Pisces

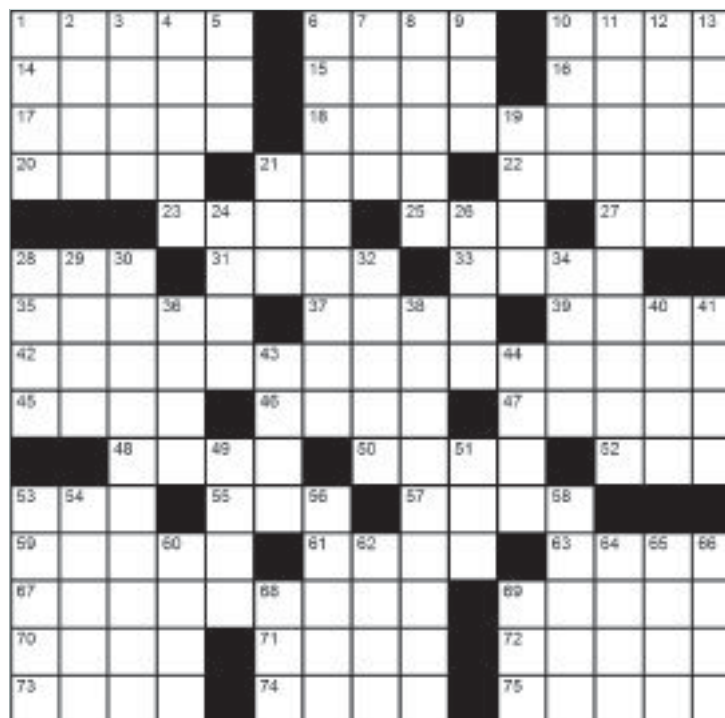
Feb. 20 - March 20

Don't jump to conclusions today or you could spend the rest of the week apologizing for something. It may look as if someone is behaving in anti-social ways but looks can be deceiving. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Singer Justin, to fans
6. "___ and Michele's High School Reunion"
10. Helper, for short
14. Sarah McLachlan song
15. Bit of a classic tongue-twister, "___ Wood sawed wood."
16. "The Cosby Show" son
17. Newfoundland's ___ Banks
18. NFB = National ___
20. Riverbank deposit
21. Reply to, for short
22. Get married again
23. Mix
25. "Hotfoot it, horse!"
27. US tax bureau
28. Bawl
31. CANADA has ___ Three As...
33. Double
35. Without the extras
37. Zap
39. NY Mets ballpark, ___ Field
42. Cadbury's seasonal treats: 3 wds.
45. Actor, Dick Van ___
46. Carrier of blood
47. Purport
48. Roof's rim thingy
50. Env. info
52. "Promiscuous" singer ...her initials-sharer
53. Decide
55. Hesitant sounds
57. Don Juan type
59. Rustic retreat
61. Potato chips brand



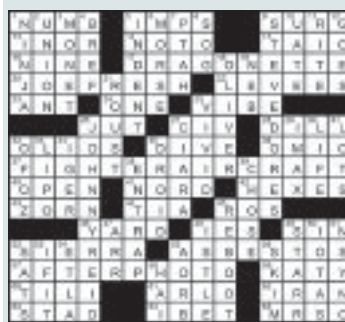
63. Does up a jacket
67. CBC series set in the Alberta foothills
69. FOX's "Glee" character
70. Rattling breathing sound
71. Border
72. Bryan Adams tune
73. Photocopies made

- bigger, for short
 74. Celebrity chef, Paula ___
 75. Where actors might be: 2 wds.
- Down**
1. Purses
 2. Crucifix inscription
 3. Equal: French
 4. Tendencies

5. Like the purchased house [abbr.]
6. Citation
7. Medical suffix
8. Ralph ___ ("Happy Days" role)
9. "Delish!"
10. Stick ___ in the water
11. Jean Chretien's home-town in Quebec

12. More dry
13. Namesakes of actor Mr. Bridges
19. Cauldron's content
21. ___ Tin Tin
24. Musical quality
26. Any thing
28. Went too fast
29. Skin care products brand
30. Sport invented in 1891 by McGill grad James Naismith
32. Governing body of The Vatican
34. Reykjavik is its cap.
36. Virginia willow
38. Canadiens great goaltender-turned-politician: 2 wds.
40. Two-days-from-Wed. exclamation!
41. Belief systems
43. Winnebago owner, informally
44. Hosiery hue
49. Let off steam
51. Li'l hairstyles
53. Earthy pigment
54. Praiseful hymn in ancient Greece
56. "Run Runaway" band from England
58. Canadian rock producer, Bob ___
60. Wraths
62. Brad's beloved, briefly
64. "Take ___ a blessing.
65. Hardwood flooring choice
66. Show to one's table
68. Zeppelin's pal
69. Hubhub

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

2°/-1°
Flurries

Thursday

4°/-1°
Variable
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Consumer Choice Award's symbol is considered to be the seal of excellence and helps consumers make better choices. It reduces the amount of research required in order for consumers to make the right decision when selecting a new service provider. Ultimately, we provide an important value to consumers: Our brand is associated with quality and this can help ease the financial burden of their decisions when it comes to purchasing goods and services.

Consumer Choice Award recognizes businesses in over a dozen cities across Canada, and continues to grow each year to better serve the consumer. This winter marks the inaugural year for CCA in London.

Consumer Choice Award has been recognizing and promoting business excellence across Canada since 1987. Ours is a selection process you can trust: Every single one of our winners is selected by actual consumers and not by a panel of judges.

Leger Marketing, the largest independent research company in Canada, conducts a survey to ensure the total integrity of the selection process. A preliminary, open-ended questionnaire is presented to consumers in order to establish the list of businesses selected. Subsequently, a thorough and unbiased survey determines the ranking of all companies and establishes the winners within each industry. Only the top-ranking companies are chosen as winners of the Consumer Choice Award.

On January 24th 2013, some of the city's most outstanding businesses (see listing below) were celebrated at the 1st Annual London Consumer Choice Award Ceremony, held at the Delta Armouries Hotel.

Consumer Choice Award is proud to reveal London's 2013 leading service providers - as chosen by you!

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